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AMB. BUNKER

COMUSMACV FACT SHEETS

Enemy and RVNAF Force Strength

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E.O. 12356 Sec. 3.6
DA Memo, Jan 5, 1988 - MACV Guidelines
By: KBH NARA, Date 3/19/99

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As of end 1972

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AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S FACT BOOK

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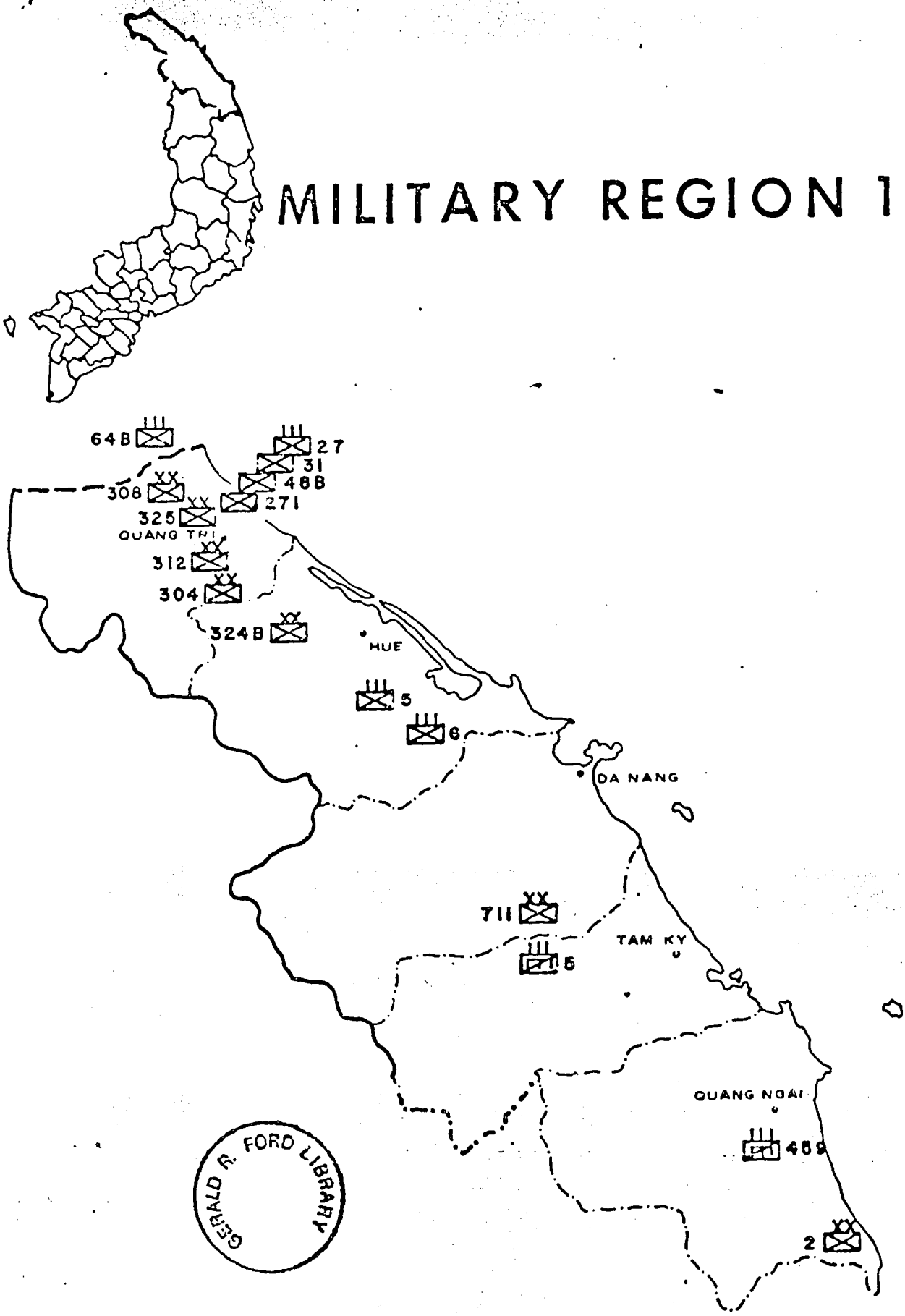

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ENEMY DIVISION STRENGTHS

MR1

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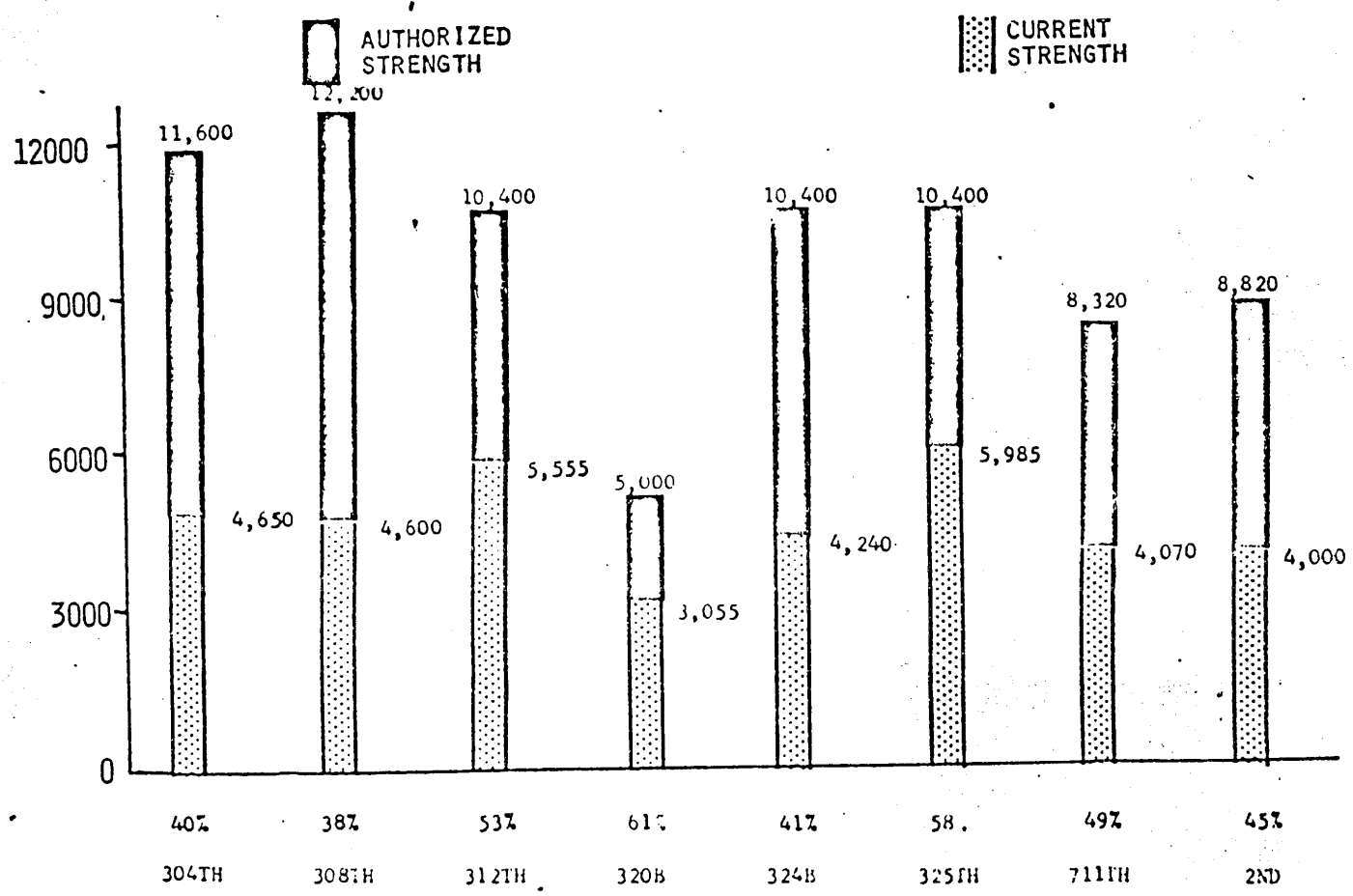

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ENEMY INDEPENDENT REGIMENT STRENGTHS

MR1

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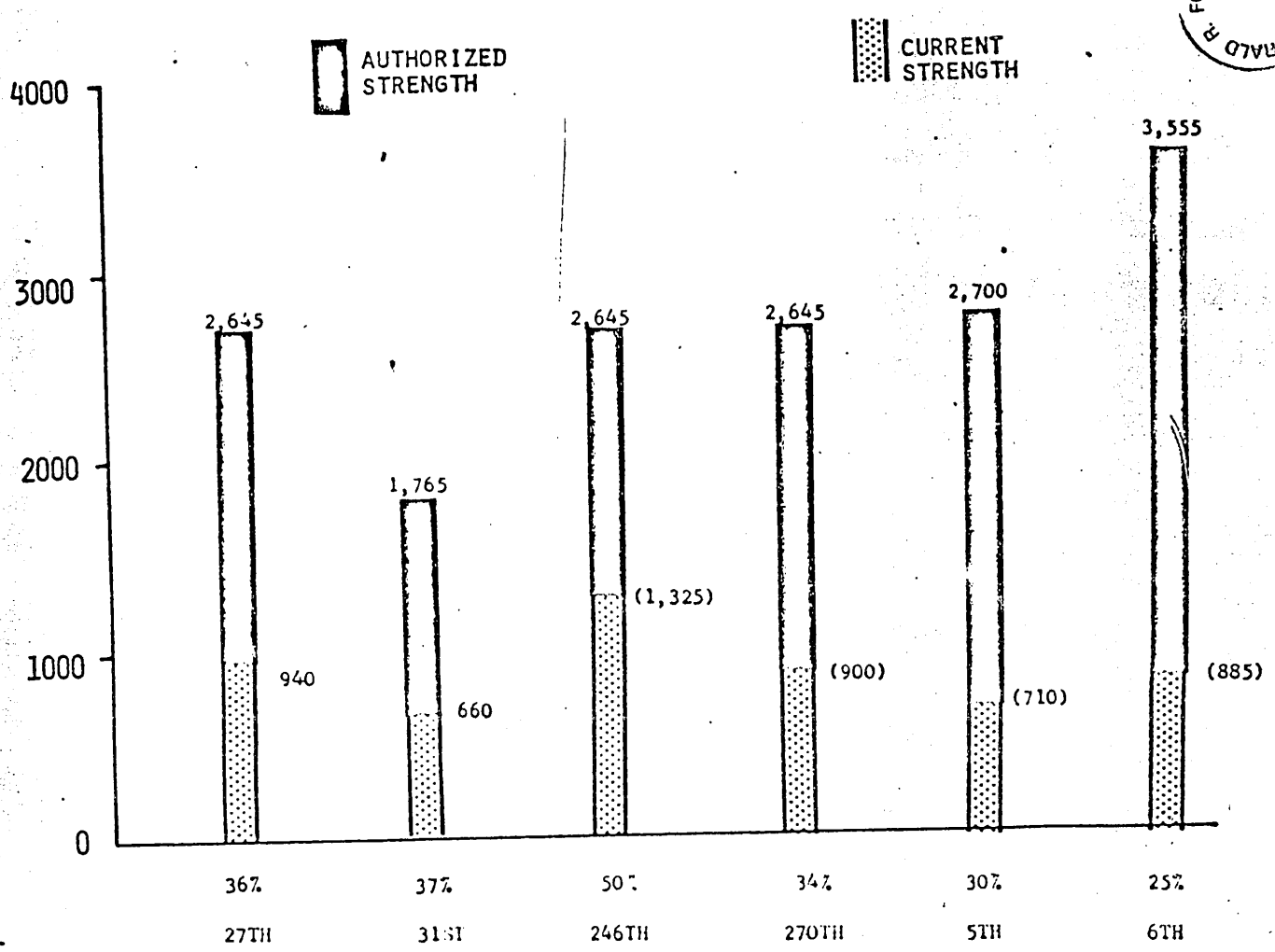

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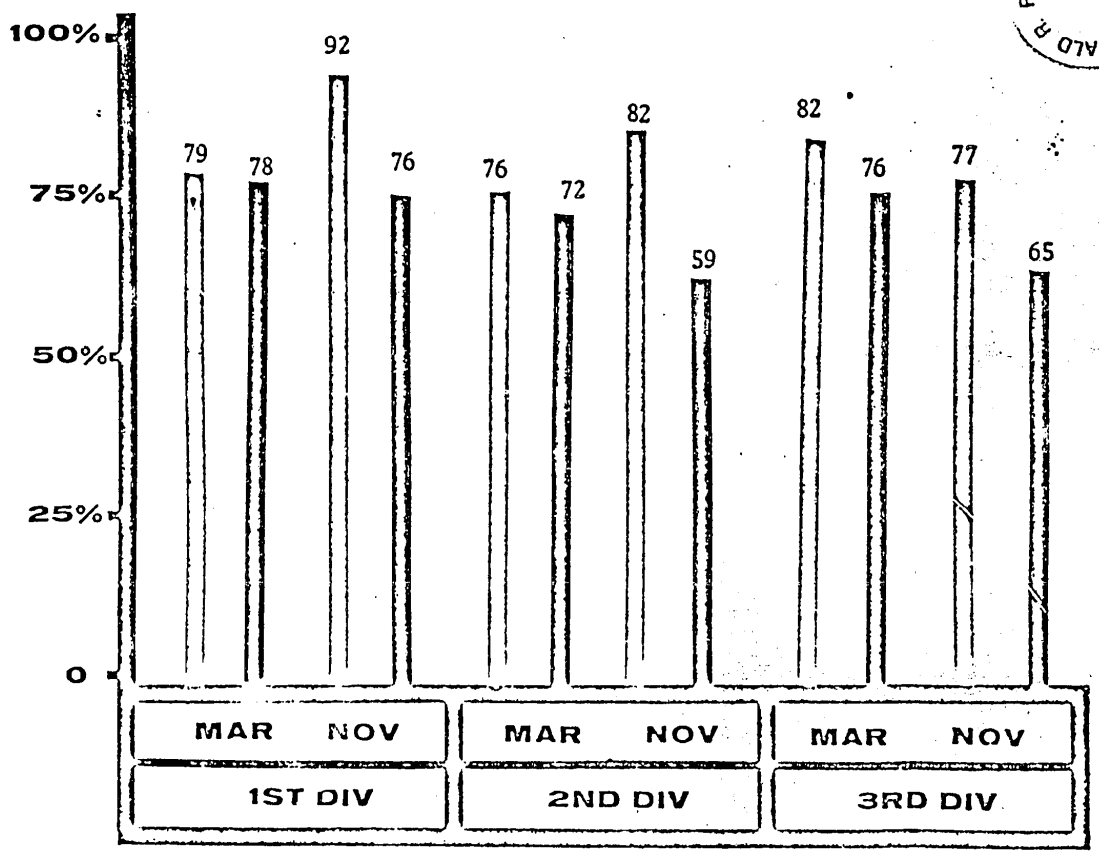

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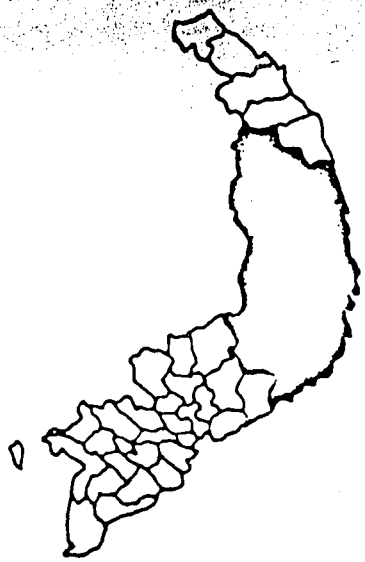

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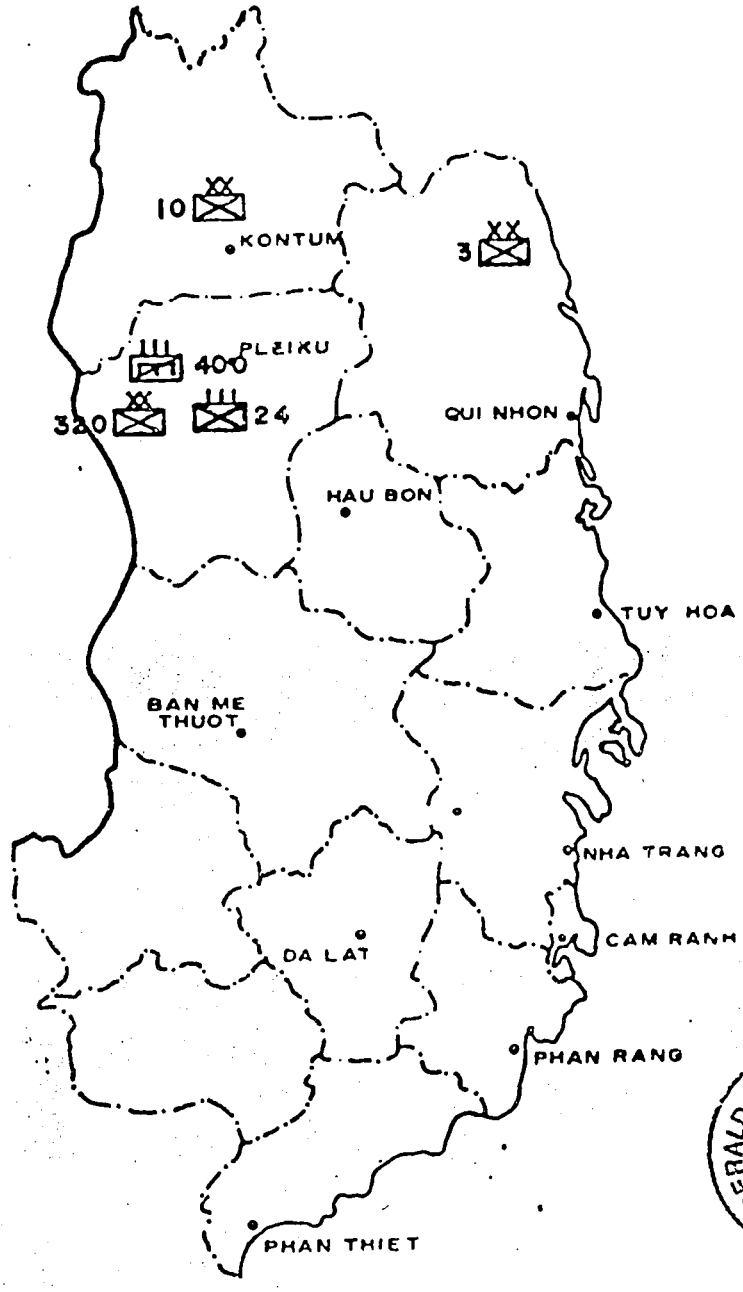

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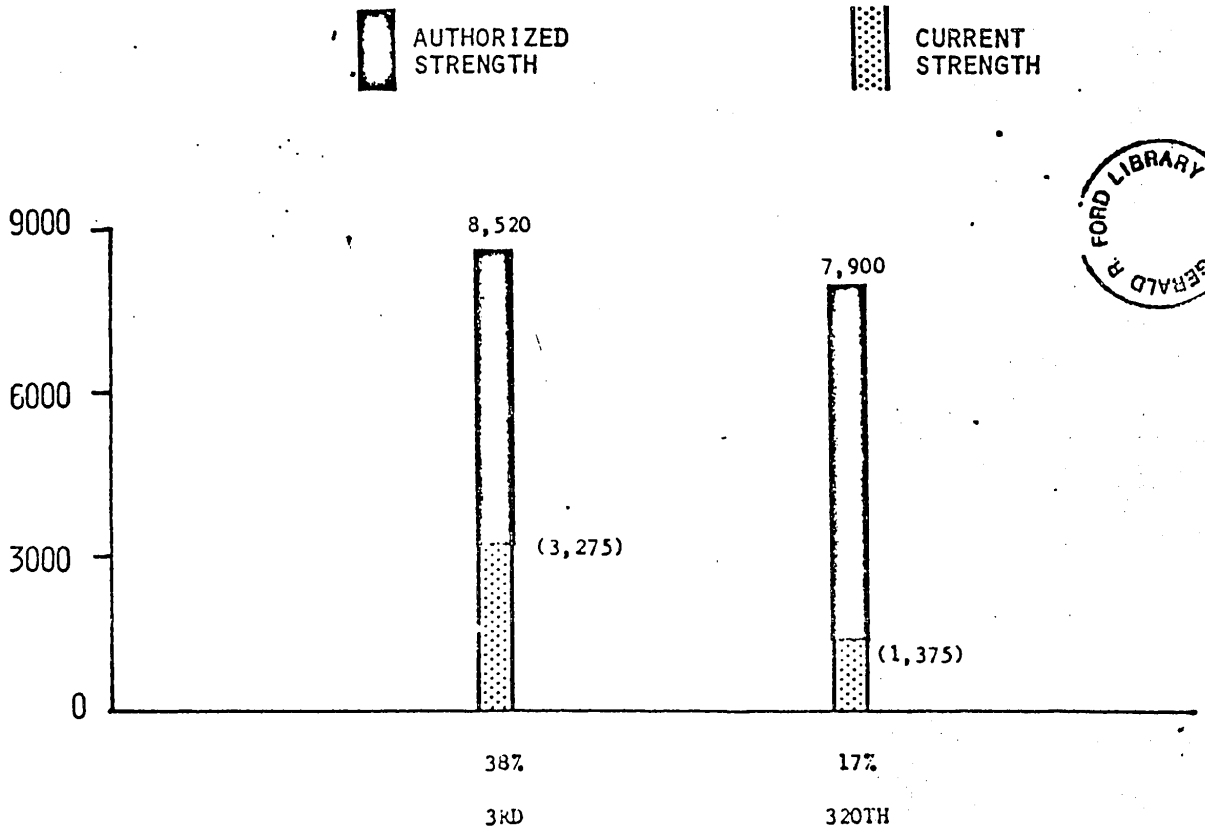
ENEMY DIVISION STRENGTHS

MR 2



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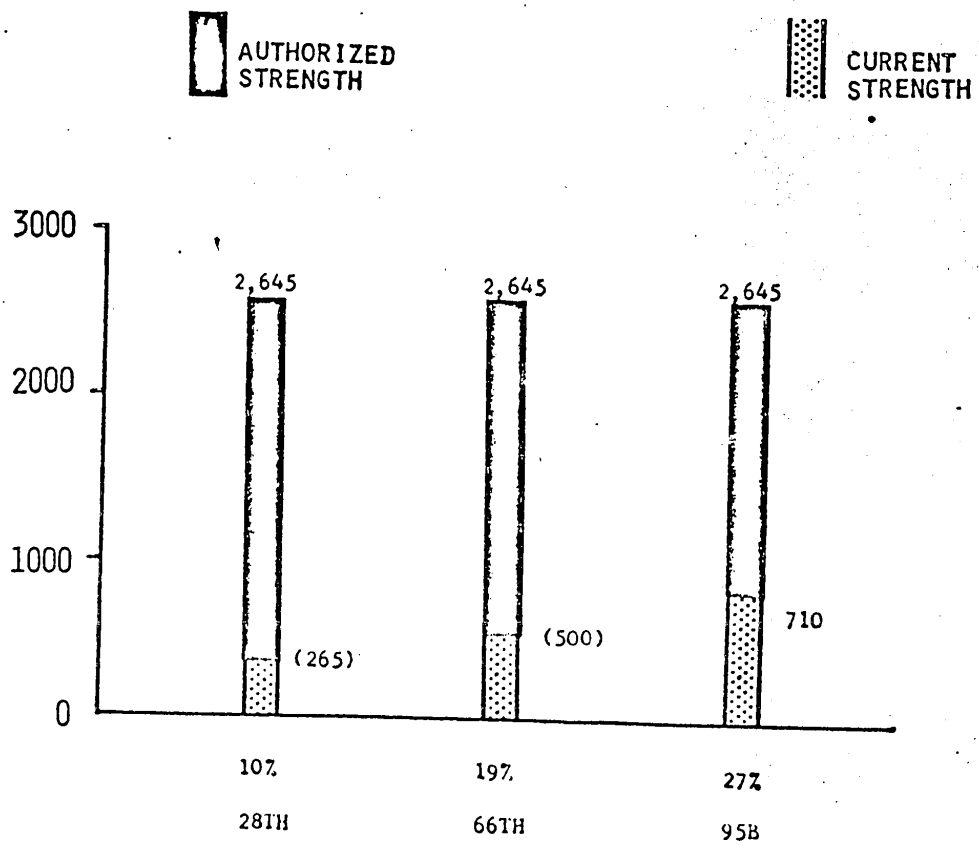
ENEMY INDEPENDENT REGIMENT STRENGTHS

MR2



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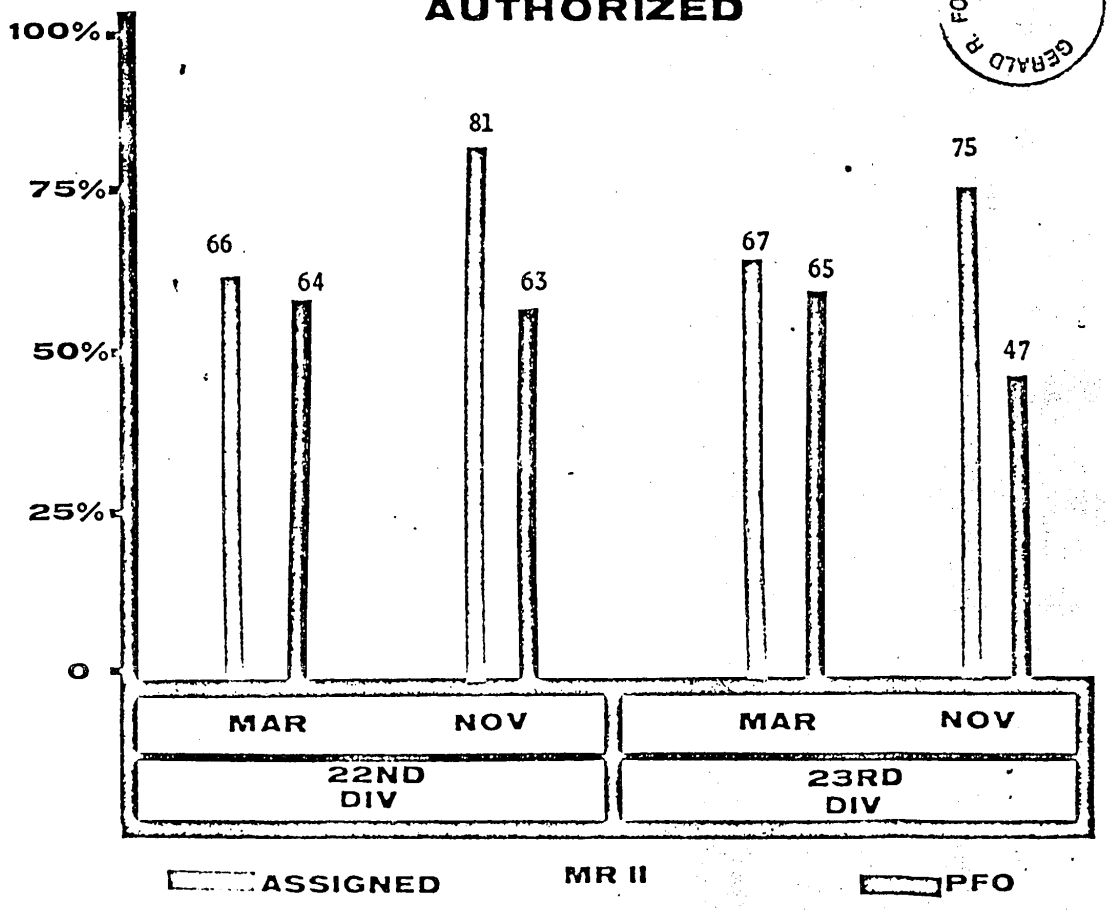

MR II

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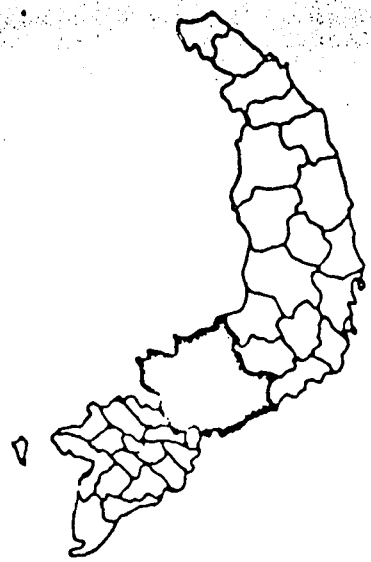

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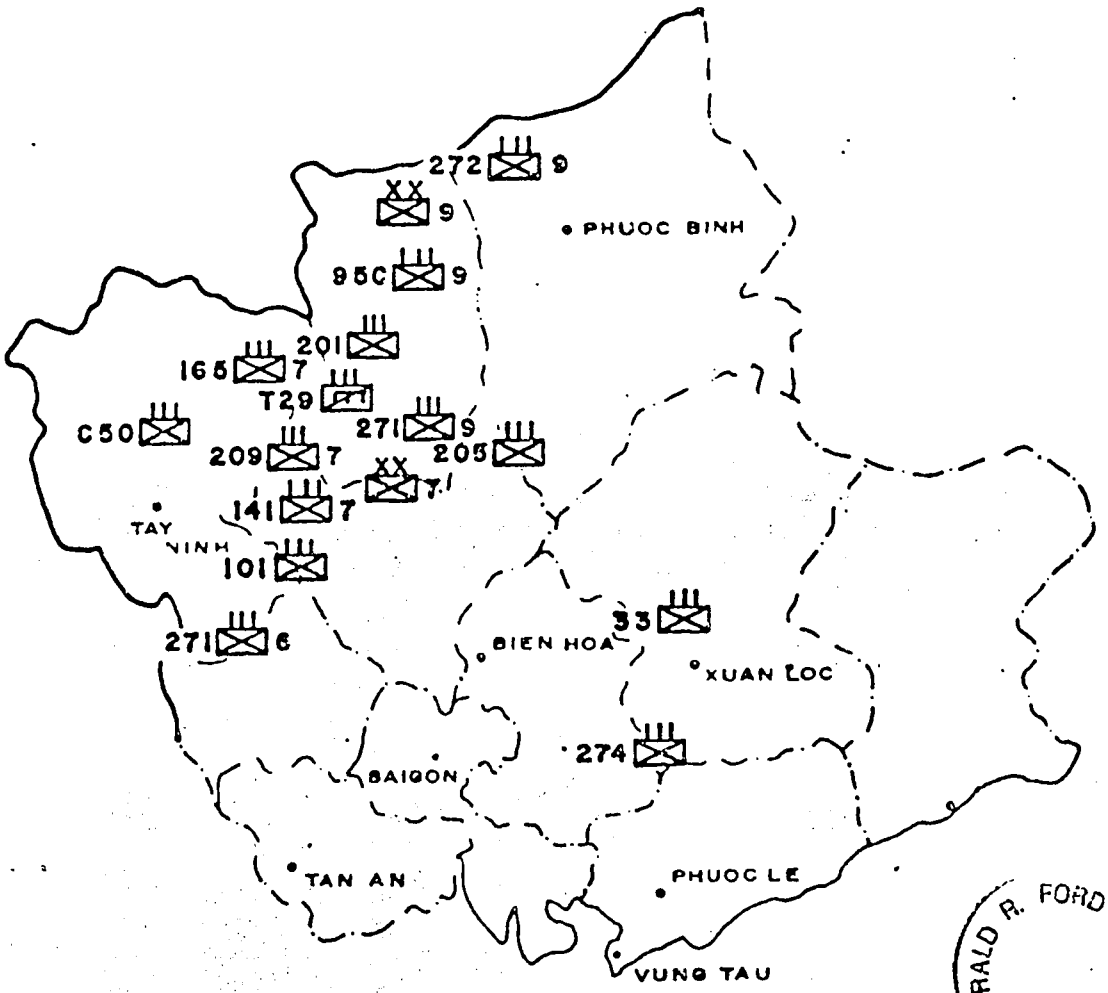

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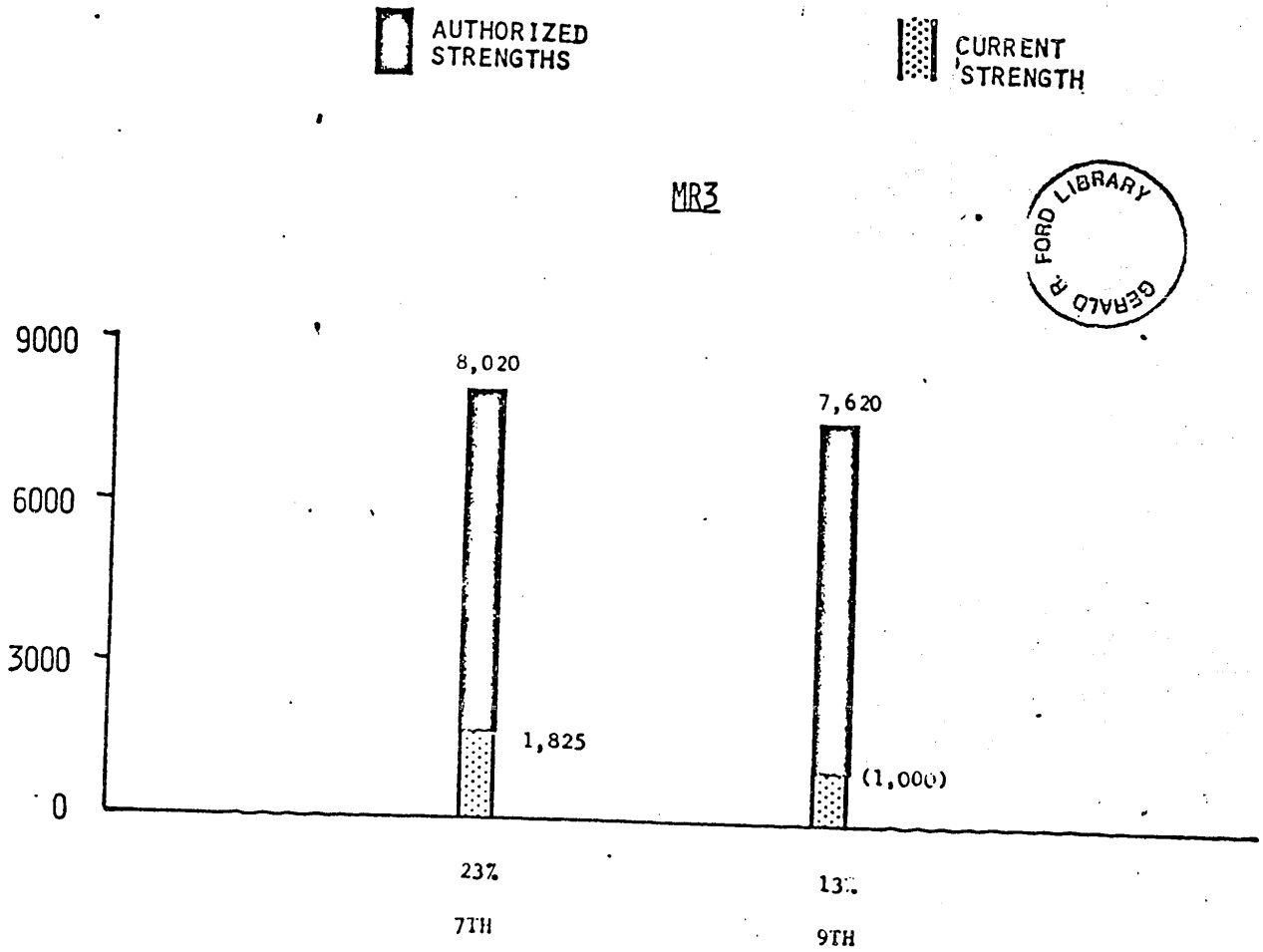
ENEMY DIVISION STRENGTHS



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ENEMY INDEPENDENT REGIMENT STRENGTHS

MR3

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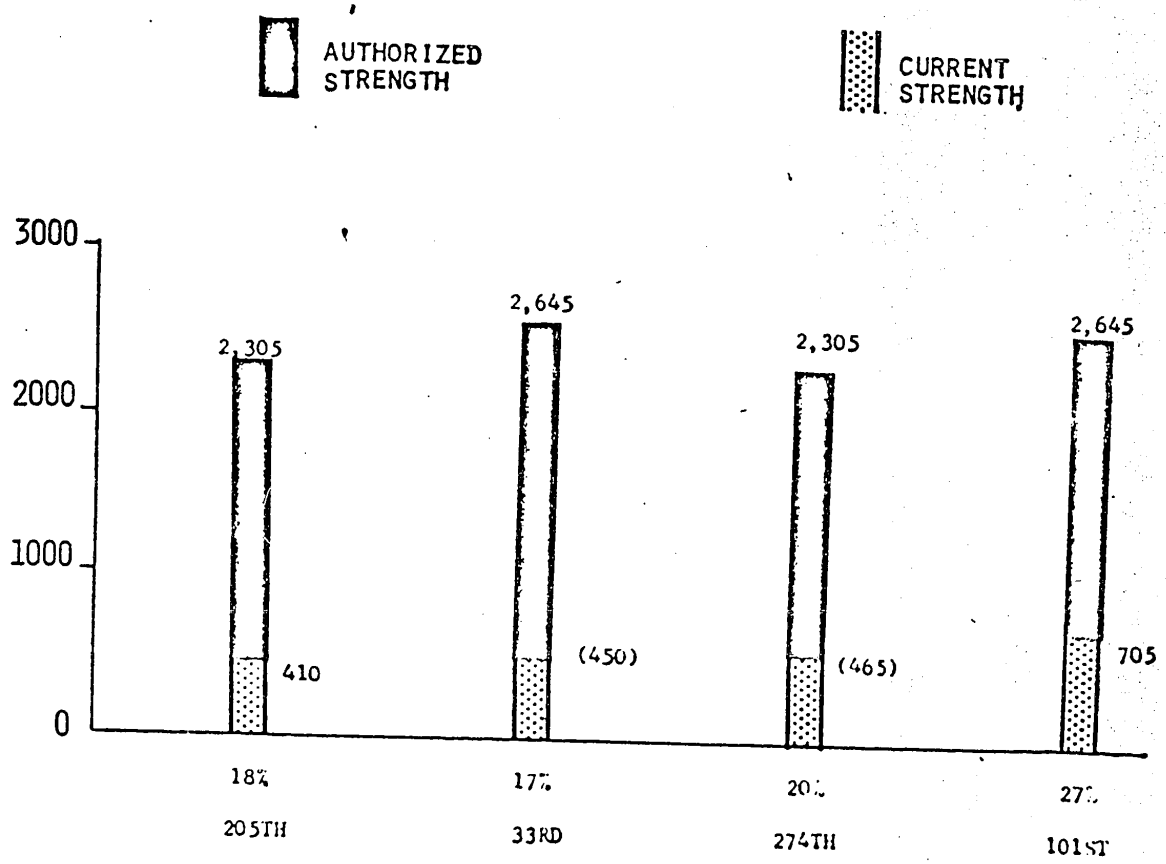

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INFANTRY BATTALION STRENGTH

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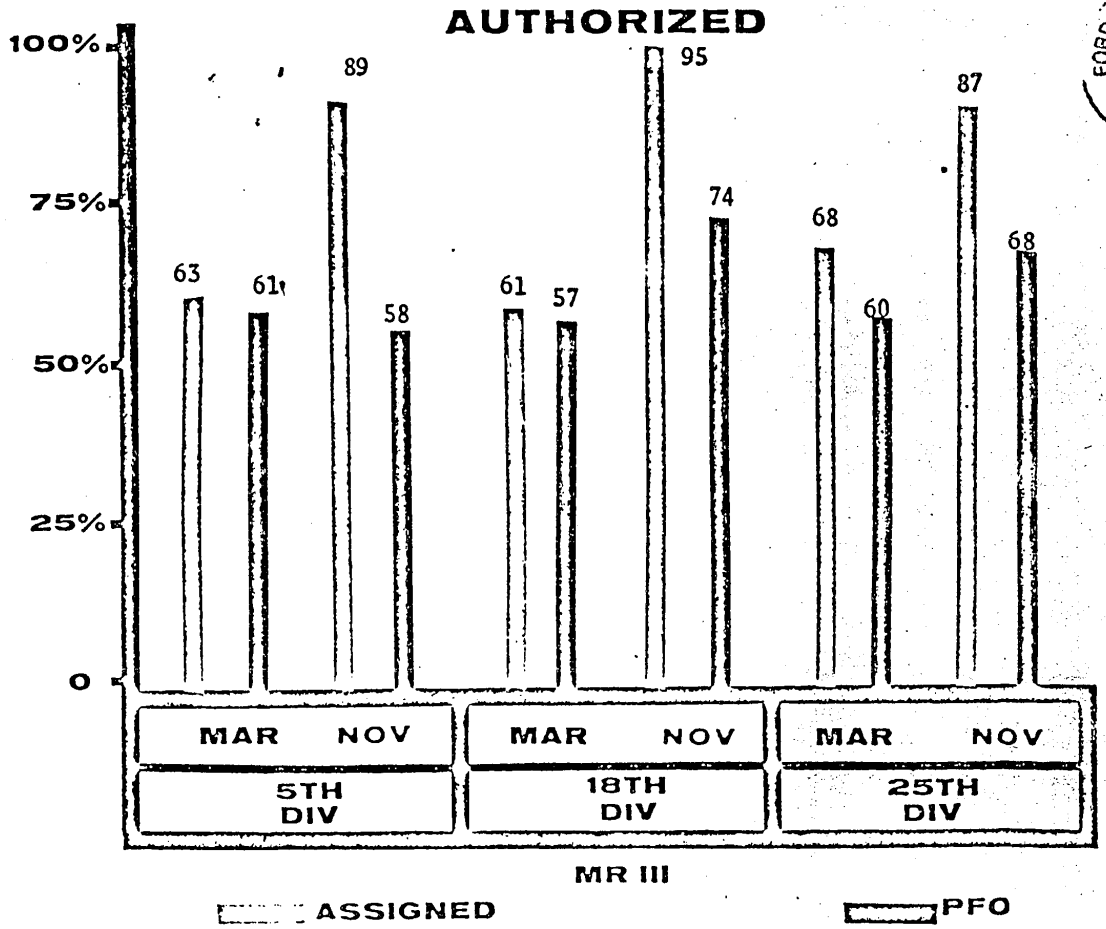

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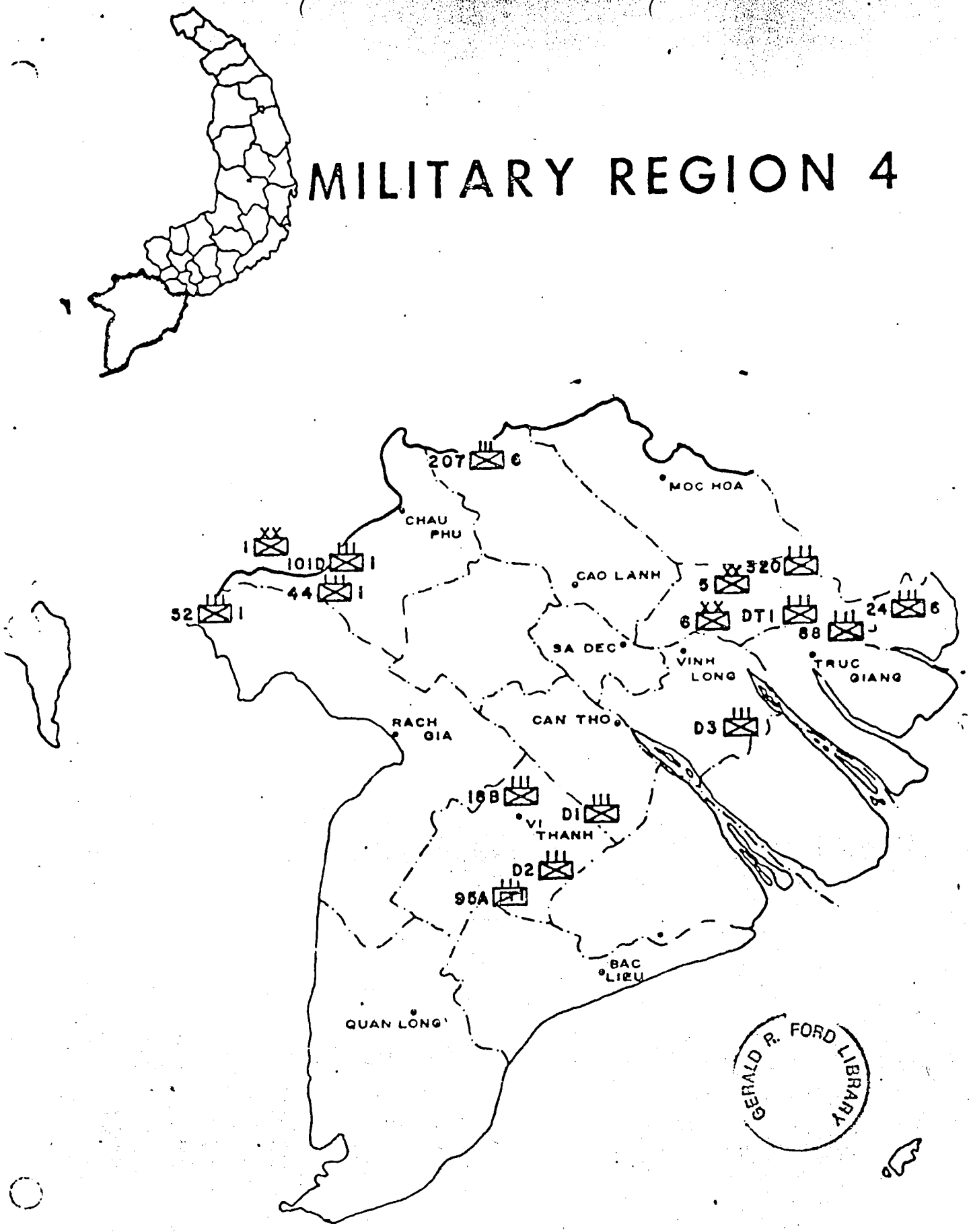

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ENEMY DIVISION STRENGTHS

MR 4

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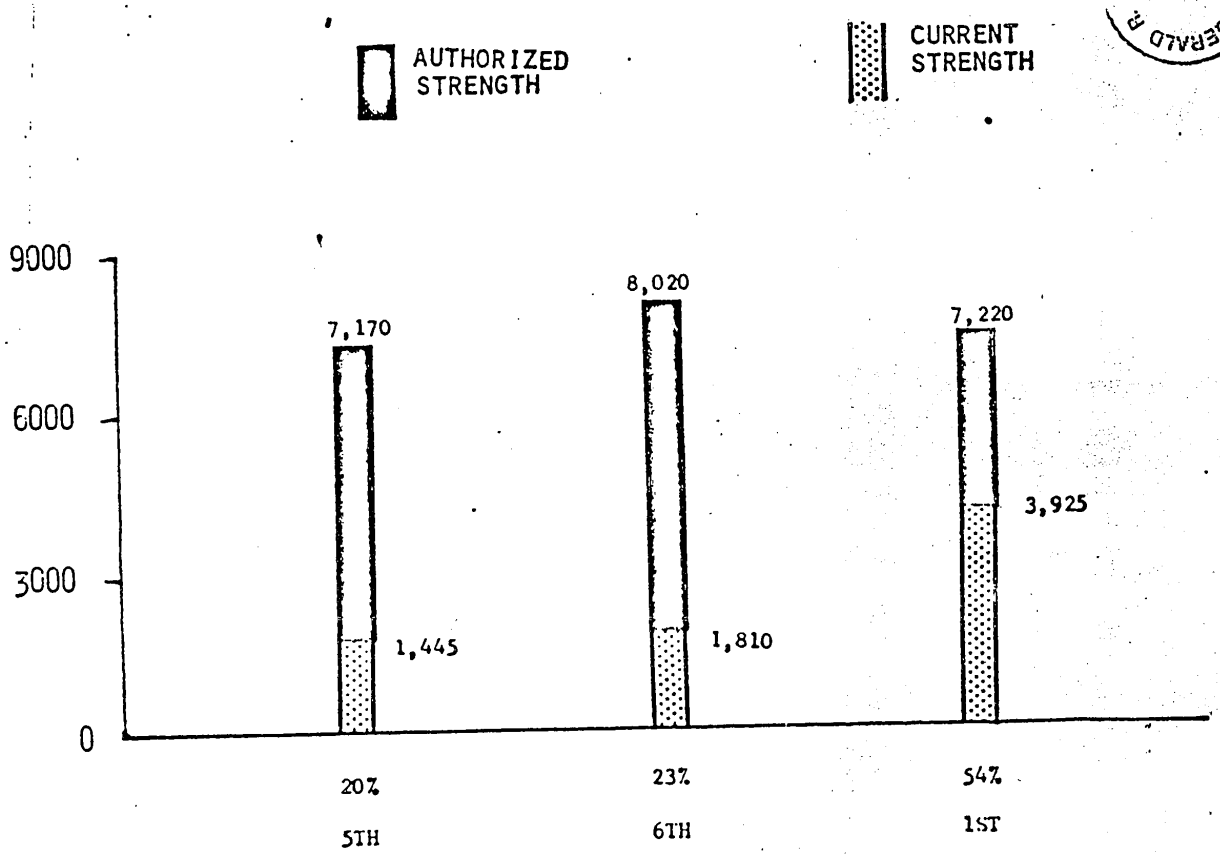

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ENEMY INDEPENDENT REGIMENT STRENGTHS

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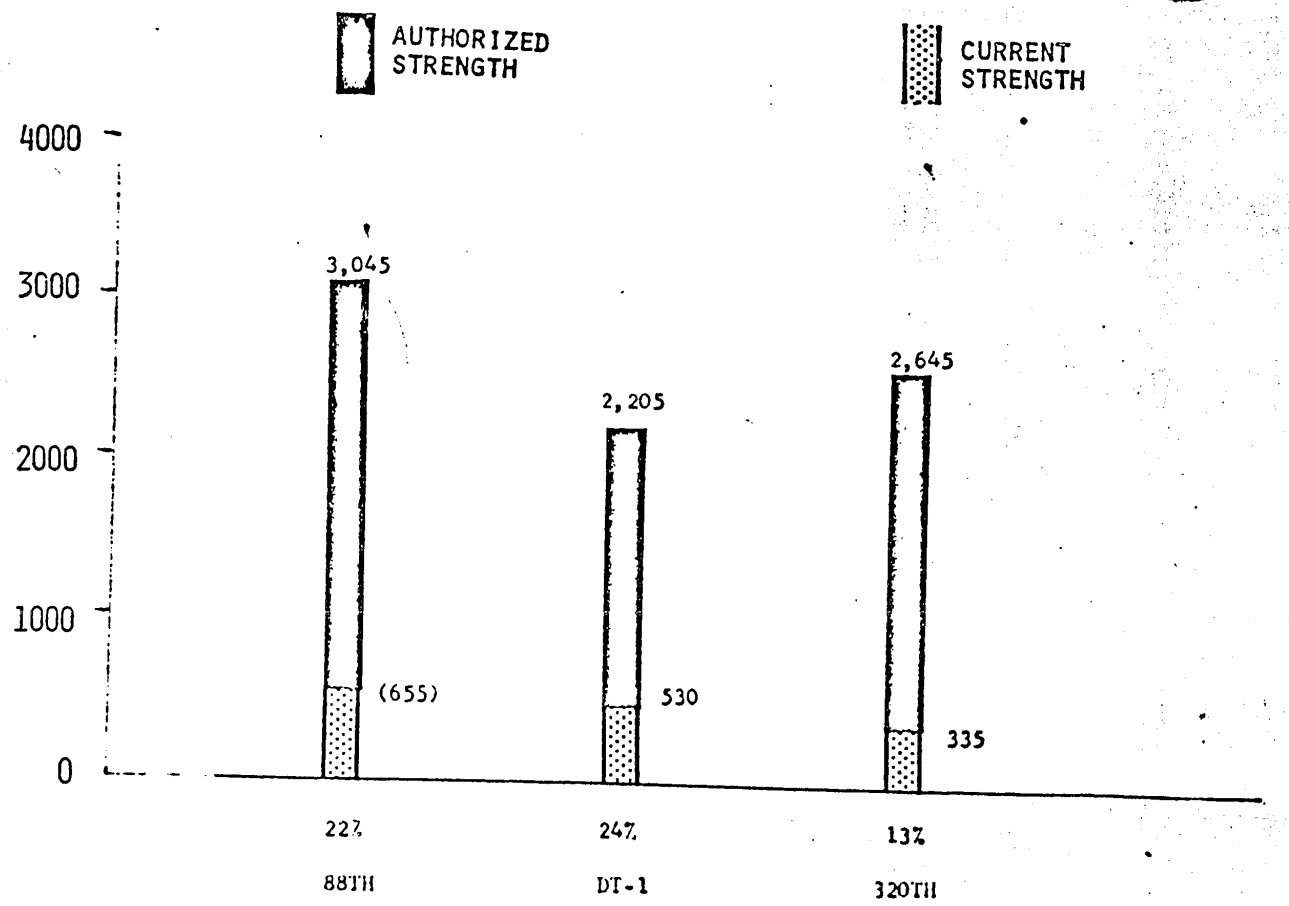

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INFANTRY BATTALION STRENGTH

ASSIGNED AND PFO VS AUTHORIZED

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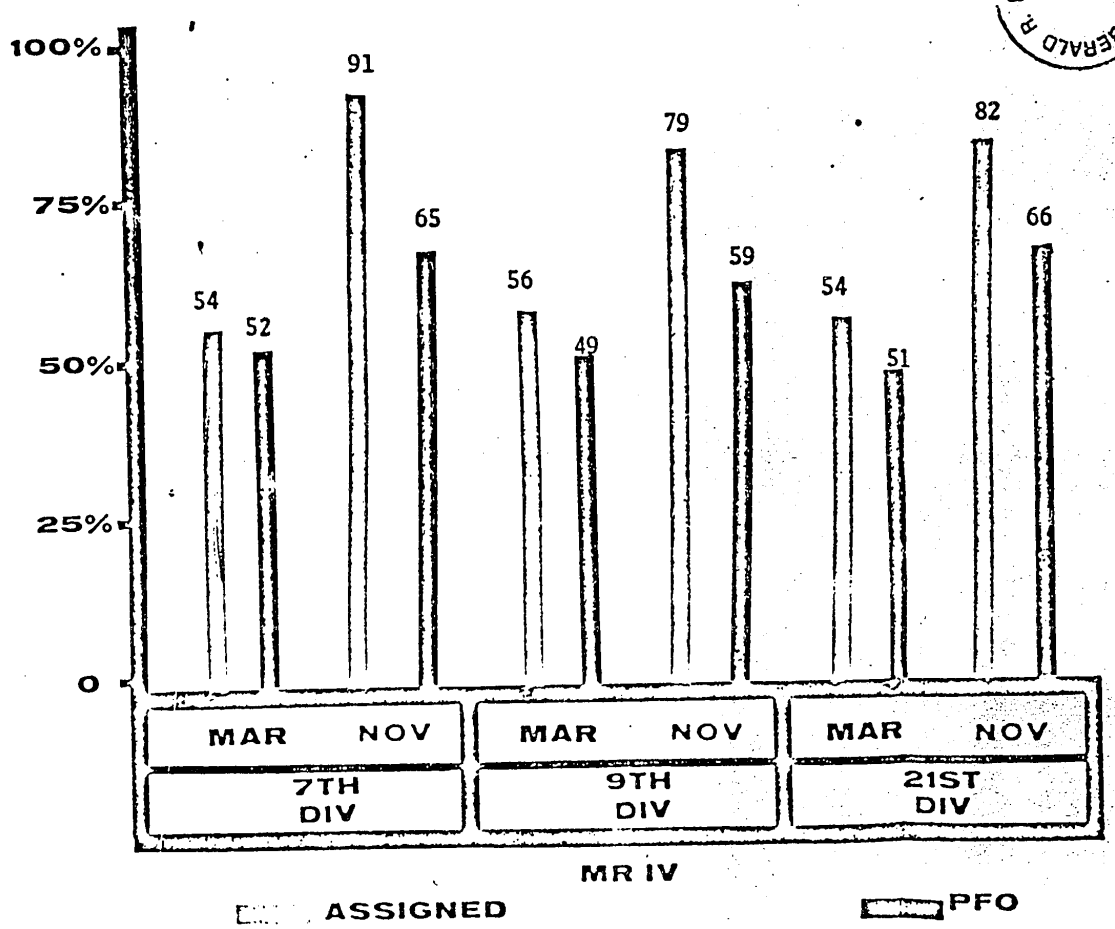

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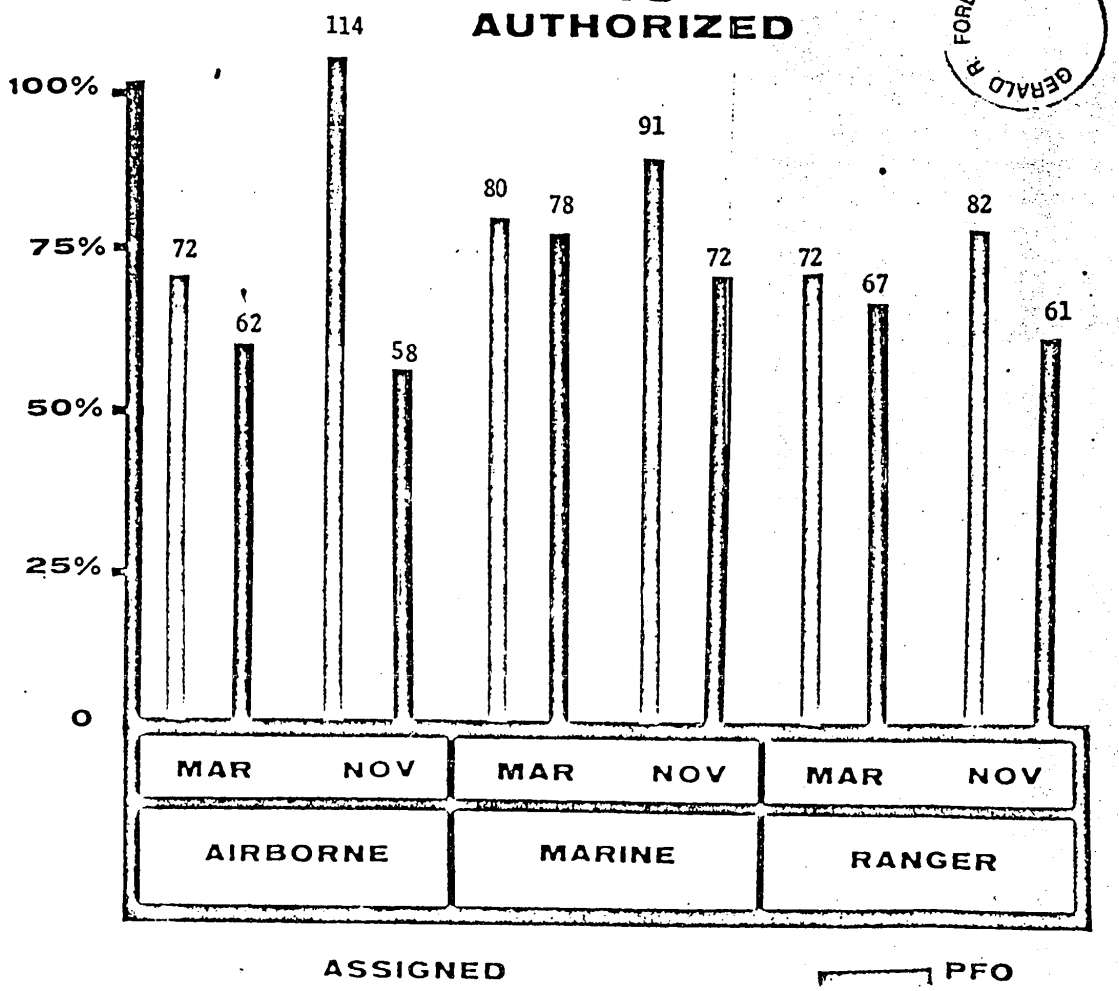

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DIVISIONAL STATUS*

DESIGNATION	AUTHORIZED	ASSIGNED STRENGTH (As of 31 Oct 72)				COMBAT MANEUVER BN PERCENTAGES** (As of 30 Nov 72)	
		OFF	NCO	ENL	TOTAL	ASGN	PRO
1st Division	16,946	1,042	3,318	13,331	17,691	92	76
2nd Division	14,002	852	2,437	9,715	13,004	82	59
3rd Division	14,002	801	2,420	8,061	11,282	77	65
5th Division	14,002	937	2,405	9,127	12,469	89	58
7th Division	14,063	888	2,557	9,051	12,496	91	65
9th Division	14,063	768	2,310	7,726	10,804	79	59
18th Division	14,002	866	2,483	9,707	13,056	95	74
21st Division	14,063	779	2,366	9,970	13,115	82	66
22nd Division	17,052	1,027	2,968	11,614	15,609	81	63
23rd Division	14,002	883	2,744	10,153	13,780	75	47
25th Division	14,063	893	2,332	10,087	10,312	87	68
Airborne Div	13,353	878	2,753	10,210	13,841	114	58
Marine Div	14,245**	857	2,214	13,603	16,674	91	72

* The assigned strength data are as of 31 Oct 72 and are derived from informa contained in the GVN computer printout of the RVNAF monthly strength books. assigned and present for operations percentages are as of 30 Nov 72 and have extracted from a bi-weekly report submitted to MACDP by the personnel advisor in each MR.

** Includes pipeline authorization (1032) and training center authorization (

*** The Division Present for Operations strength varies from 47% to 76% with mean percentage being 64% of authorized. These Present for Operations strengt are computed and forwarded by Military Region G-1 Advisor personnel. Computa errors resulting in some inflated PFO figures occurred when these percentages were computed by both the Vietnamese and the Advisors. However, this situati has now been resolved and percentages shown here are considered accurate.

Inclosure 1

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Nov. 1, 1972

FACT SHEET

MACDI35 LtCol Cleveland/jgm/4161

SUBJECT: NVA Presence in Guerrilla Units and Viet Cong Infrastructure

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Chief of Staff

PURPOSE: To provide information relative to the MACV estimate of NVA strength within guerrilla units and the Viet Cong Infrastructure.

FACTS:

1. Definitions:

a. Guerrillas: Guerrillas are fighting forces, usually organized into platoons and squads, directly subordinate to the party apparatus at village and hamlet levels. At times guerrillas operate outside their home villages and hamlets, often with local and main force units. Typical missions include limited offensive operations, harassment, sabotage, propaganda, protection of party committees, collection of taxes, and also security and reconnaissance for main and local force units.

b. Viet Cong Infrastructure: The Viet Cong Infrastructure is defined as the political and administrative organization through which the Viet Cong control or seek to control the South Vietnamese people. It embodies the party control structure, which includes a command and administrative apparatus (Central Office South Vietnam) at the national level, and the leadership and administration of a parallel front organization (National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam), both of which extend from the national through the hamlet level.

c. Administrative Service Units: Military personnel in COSVN, military region, military subregion, front, province, and district staffs, and rear service technical units of all types directly subordinate to those headquarters.

2. MACV interprets these definitions to preclude inclusion of significant numbers of NVA personnel in VCI and guerrilla units. Considering limited available evidence, it is possible that NVA personnel are serving within the VCI and guerrilla units. However, present data is insufficient

Classified by: MACDI
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERV DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1980

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MACDI35
SUBJECT: NVA Presence in Guerrilla Units and Viet Cong Infrastructure

to support a quantative analysis.

3. The Administrative Services Units in RVN contain 35,735 NVA personnel. These units include political and current affairs sections which are mission oriented toward the local civilian population, and thus are performing certain VCI tasks. This type of unit operating at the district level might mistakenly be considered VCI.

4. In summary, although a limited number of NVA personnel are possibly serving in both guerrilla units and the VCI, the actual number cannot be estimated on the basis of current data. An accurate designation of North Vietnamese strength within these two categories would not change the 30 September total enemy strength of 270,510. Overall strength differences between MACV and ARVN are usually due to different acceptance criteria. MACV is bound by the acceptance criteria established by national level agencies, and concurred in by MACV and which is generally more stringent than that used by ARVN.

George A. Godding

GEORGE A. GODDING
Major General, USA
Director of Intelligence

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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96222

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE HONORABLE ELLSWORTH BUNKER
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
SAIGON, VIETNAM

SUBJECT: Comparison of MACV and JGS Enemy Strength Estimates

In accordance with your request, a comparison of JGS and MACV strength holdings is listed below. Necessary explanations are footnoted below each country strength presentation:

SOUTH VIETNAM

	NVA	VC	TOTAL
	MACV/JGS	MACV/JGS	MACV/JGS
COMBAT (1)	95,020/125,000	24,815/39,500	119,840/164,500
SUPPORT (2)	35,735/ 18,300	39,025/35,200	74,762/ 53,500
GUERRILLA	0 / 0	26,310/35,000	26,310/ 35,000
VC INFRA (3)	0 / 0	49,605/32,000	49,609/ 32,000
TOTAL	130,755/143,300	139,755/141,700	270,510/285,000

(1) Equates to MACV category "maneuver and combat support", and will be used as such in this memorandum.

(2) Equates to MACV category "admin services", and will be used as such in this memorandum.

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(3) MACV ceased collecting VCI information in June 1972 because U.S. sources for this information were withdrawn. September estimate is furnished.

FRED C. WEYAND
General, USA
Commanding

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RVN TOTALS

NVA Main – 101,995
Local – 2,450

TOTAL NVA = 104,445
in NVA units

VC Main – 48,650
Local – 41,505

TOTAL VC/NVA 90,155
Units (est 75% NVA, 25% VC)

VC Guerillas = 26,310

TOTAL = 220,910

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